



State of Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Health

Office of the Surgeon General

OFFICIAL BIOGRAPHY

As surgeon general of the Louisiana Department of Health, Ralph L. Abraham, M.D. assists the secretary with leading the state's largest agency with a budget of \$19.8 billion and a team responsible for delivering services to millions of Louisianans. LDH protects and promotes health for Louisiana residents through services provided by Medicaid and the Offices of Public Health, Behavioral Health, Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, Aging and Adult Services, Women's Health and Community Health, and Emergency Preparedness. These programs work to ensure access to medical, preventative, and rehabilitative services for Louisiana's most vulnerable residents.

Doc is a practicing family medicine physician in Richland Parish and a former three term Congressman for Louisiana's 5th Congressional District. Throughout his almost 30 year career in medicine, Dr. Abraham has seen firsthand the many healthcare challenges facing Louisiana. Dr. Abraham graduated from Mangham High School before earning his degree at Louisiana State University. He graduated from the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine and practiced for 10 years before eventually seeking his Medical Doctor degree, which he earned at the LSU School of Medicine in Shreveport. Dr. Abraham was a First Lieutenant in the Army National Guard. He has served on missions for the Free Burma Rangers in Burma, Syria, Iraq and Ukraine. He has also volunteered on humanitarian missions in Afghanistan, Haiti, Africa and the Amazon rainforest.

Additionally, he is a fixed-wing and helicopter pilot who currently flies missions for the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and the Air Force's Civil Air Patrol Green Flag Program. He's a certified flight instructor, a graduate of the Army Flight Surgeon School at Fort Novosel in Alabama, and actively works with Pilots for Patients – an organization that provides free air transportation to patients needing medical treatment not available to them locally. He's flown with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Hurricane Hunters during reconnaissance missions through Hurricanes Harvey and Michael. He has also climbed Mount Kilimanjaro. Doc has been married to his wife Dianne for 46 years and they reside in Richland Parish. They have three children and ten grandchildren.

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